

***What is Claimed Is:***

1. An actuator for a traction device comprising:
  - a locking clutch adapted for operative communication with a traction device;
  - a drive disc having at least one drive tab, said drive tab projecting axially into driving engagement with said locking clutch, and said drive disc having a seat with an inner face;
  - a drive shaft having a cam, said cam having an outer face and said cam being disposed within said seat of said drive disc such that said outer face of said cam and said inner face of said seat define at least one constricting channel, said cam further having a projection;
  - a fixed stop;
  - a locking element disposed within said constricting channel adjacent said fixed stop;
  - and
  - a spring disposed between said projection of said cam and said locking element such that rotational force on said cam in a first direction rotates said locking clutch and applies traction to said traction device, and such that after said rotational force is released, said spring biases said cam back towards a starting position.
2. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said cam and said drive disc are coaxial.
3. The actuator of claim 1 further comprising a housing.
4. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said fixed stop is integrally formed with a housing.

5. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said locking element is configured in a shape selected from the group consisting of: a sphere, a cylinder and a wedge.

6. The actuator of claim 1 further comprising a passive roller, said passive roller being disposed between said cam and said inner face of said seat of said drive disc.

7. The actuator of claim 1 further comprising a second spring and a second locking element, disposed in a second constricting channel.

8. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said spring is within said constricting channel.

9. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said spring is disposed to bias said locking element towards a narrow end of said constricting channel.

10. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said spring is on the same plane as said cam and said disc.

11. The actuator of claim 1 wherein said traction device is a Bowden cable.

12. An actuator for a traction device comprising:

a locking clutch adapted for operative communication with a traction device;

a drive disc having drive tabs, said drive tabs projecting axially into driving engagement with said locking clutch, and said drive disc having a seat with an inner face;

a drive shaft having a cam, said cam having an outer face and said cam being disposed within said seat of said drive disc such that said outer face of said cam and said inner face of said seat define a first constricting channel and a second constricting channel, said cam further having a projection;

a first locking roller disposed within said first constricting channel and a second locking roller disposed within said second constricting channel;

a fixed stop disposed between said cam outer face and said inner face of said seat and disposed between said first locking roller and said second locking roller;

a first spring and a second spring, said first spring being disposed in said first constricting channel between said first locking roller and said projection and said second spring being disposed in said second constricting channel between said second locking roller and said projection;

whereby, a rotational force applied on said drive shaft in a first rotational direction compresses said first spring and a rotational force applied to said drive shaft in a second rotational direction compresses said second spring and whereby after release of the first rotational force in said first direction, said first spring biases said cam towards a home position and after a release of the second rotational force in said second direction, said second spring biases said cam towards a home position.